Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 HEW-04 HA-05 L-03 IOE-00 /103 W

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P R 101734Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4063 INFO USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, PORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL
PREJUDICE

REF: A) PARIS 36932 B) PARIS 37279

- 1. ON BEHALF OF INFORMATION GROUP (IG), SEVERAL MEMBERS LED BY AMBASSADOR HUMMEL (SWITZERLAND) MET WITH BOISSIER-PALUN (DG'S CONFIDANT AND PRINCIPAL ADVISOR) ON JANUARY 6 TO DISCUSS VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF IG CONCERNING SECRETARIAT DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE (REFTEL A). PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO COMMUNICATE IG VIEWS TO DG WITHOUT GIVING RISE TO INTERPRETATION THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE TRYING TO EXACT CONCESSIONS, OR TO EXERT UNDUE PRESSURE.
- 2. BOISSIER-PALUN TOLD IG REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED AS AN OBSERVER IN EXPERTS MEETING WHICH HAD DRAFTED CURRENT DRAFT DECLARATION. HE, TOO, SHARED SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE SAME CONCERNS VOICED BY IG MEMBERS, AND BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, AS PROPOSED BY AMB HUMMEL, TO FORMULATE AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT TEXT. BOISSIER-PALUN FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT IG CONVENE AGAIN TO DRAW UP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO WHICH THE GROUP COULD AGREE. SINCE HE HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO DISCUSS DRAFT DECLARATION WITH DG, SPECIFIC IG VIEWS COULD BE MADE PART

OF THIS APPROACH. THE DG, IN FACT, HAD ALREADY ASKED BOISSIER-PALUN TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GROUPS IN UNESCO, IN HOPES OF WORKING OUT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXT THAT WOULD MEET ALL CONCERNS, PRIOR TO OPENING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT'S MEETING. THE IG'S INITIATIVE WILL AID HIM IN THIS TASK.

- 3. IG WILL MEET AGAIN ON JAN 12 TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT TEXT. THESE WILL BE GIVEN TO BOISSIER-PALUN. IF DEPT HAS ANY COMMENT ON DRAFT TEXT WHICH IT WOULD WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN IG'S AMENDMENTS, OR CONCERNING MATERIALS REFERRED TO REFTEL A, PERM DEL WILL NEED THEM JAN 12, AM. WE WILL RELAY RESULTS OF JAN 12 IG SESSION AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.
- 4. AS TO A TIME AND PLACE FOR MEETING, WE ARE TOLD 'OFFICIALLY" THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE STILL UNDERWAY. NONETHELESS, WE AND MOST OTHER PERM DELS HERE ARE NEARLY CERTAIN THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PARIS, AND PROBABLY SOMETIME AFTER MARCH 15.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PREJUDICE Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 10 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS00732
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780015-0057 Format: TEL

From: PARIS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780180/aaaacpzm.tel

Line Count: 84 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2eabeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 PARIS 36932, 78 PARIS 37279

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3801179 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNESCO: DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2eabeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014